Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 MC-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /140 W

R 141316Z SEP 73 FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6789 INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD AMEMBASSY TEHRAN AMEMBASSY DACCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, IN, PK

SUBJ: INDIAN PRESS REPORTS DR KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS ON ARMS,

BANGLADESH

1. SEPTEMBER 12 AND 13 NEWSPAPERS QUOTED FROM NEWS STORIES OF STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY-DESIGNATE KISSINGER SAYING THAT THE US WOULD SELL SPARE PARTS TO PAKISTAN BUT DID NOT INTEND TO SELL NEW ARMS. COVERAGE INCLUDED STATEMENT THAT THERE MAY BE SOME MINOR MODIFICATIONS BECAUSE BOTH WANT SOME VERY SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT. THEY ALSO PICKED UP HIS COMMENTS ABOUT IMPROVING INDO-US RELATIONS, HIS VIEWS ON BANGLADESH, AND HIS STATEMENT THAT USE OF AMERICAN ARMS BY IRAN FOR AGGRESSIVE PURPOSES WOULD BE CONTRARY TO US POLICY. LEFTIST PATRIOT COMMENTED THAT US COMMITMENTS IN SOUTH ASIA MIGHT CAUSE IT TO VIOLATE DR KISSINGER'S PLEDGES AS IT HAD VIOLATED EARLIER PROMISES.

2. THE ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT ON SEPTEMBER 14 WAS IN STATESMAN. IN ITS VIEW, DR KISSINGER'S STATEMENT ON ARMS TO PAKISTAN WAS HELPFUL BECAUSE IT CAME JUST BEFORE PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. NOTING PAST STATEMENTS ON THE SAME SUBJECT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PAPER OBSERVED "THERE IS AT PRESENT NO REASON TO SUSPECT

THAT HIS ASSURANCES WILL NOT BE HONORED." IT PRAISED HIM FOR HIS "DESIRE TO BREAK AWAY FROM OUTDATED CONTROVERSIES AND PREJUDICES." ON BANGLADESH, THE PAPER COMMENTED: "A SIMILAR DETERMINATION TO BE UNEMCUMBERED BY THE PAST IS EVIDENT IN DR KISSINGER'S OBSERVATIONS ON INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. HE IS FULLY AWARE OF THE MISUNDERSTANDING CAUSED DURING THE BANGLADESH STRUGGLE. HE HAS TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE US ATTITUDE, BUT HAS NOT BLAMED INDIA FOR FAILING TO APPRECIATE IT. HE REALIZES THAT ARGUMENTS ARE NOW FUTILE; HIS CHIEF CONCERN IS TO AVOID CONTROVERSIES LIKELY TO PREJUDICE FUTURE RELATIONS." SCHNEIDER

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